

~~TOP SECRET~~ [REDACTED]~~No Foreign Dissem/Background Use Only~~EO 12958 3.4(h)(1)>25Yrs
(C)The Communists' Ten Commandments

Liberation Radio has broadcast ten "commandments" as guidelines for Viet Cong cadre and North Vietnamese soldiers in areas they have captured. The "commandments" were issued in the name of the recently established Quang Tri "People's Revolutionary Committee." The first five deal with administrative procedures for the liberated areas. They direct cadre to maintain firm "resolution" if it becomes necessary at some future point to fight off enemy counterattacks. The last five list instructions for dealing with the local population. The cadre are told to "protect public property," including all historical shrines; to "protect the people's lives, property, profession, and means"; and to respect the people's individual freedom.

Similar but less detailed instructions were broadcast by the Quang Tri Provincial Committee shortly after the Communists captured the province in late April. Both sets of guidelines mesh well with the accounts of refugees who have escaped from enemy-controlled territory. The refugees report that North Vietnamese soldiers have been well-disciplined and that their Viet Cong counterparts, upon assuming control shortly thereafter, have also been considerate toward the local population.

The Communists are well aware of the need for popular support, and they appear willing to make a considerable effort to avoid antagonizing the local populace. These latest instructions omit any reference to the treatment accorded members of the local population who have worked for the South Vietnamese Government. There have been reports that some of these individuals, especially members of the police, have been tortured and in some instances publicly executed as examples to their neighbors. [REDACTED]

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